



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/981,178 | 10/16/2001 | Gene Stellan | 2334 DIV | 5414 |

7590

03/10/2003

United States Surgical, a division of
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, MICHAEL M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

4

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|

| |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

| | |
|----------|-------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER |
|----------|-------|

7

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Art Unit: 3763

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed on December 16, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Specifically, Applicant has presented newly presented claims and a general allegation of patentability. The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including *any newly presented claims*, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3763

Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 305-1619.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Primary, Michael Hayes, can be reached on (703) 305-5873. The official fax phone number for submissions to the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9302. The official fax phone number for submission of After Final response is (703) 872-9303.

Michael M. Thompson

Patent Examiner

MT



March 6, 2003



MICHAEL J. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER